

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
KEY WEST BUREAU**



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MFL-5034  
9 December 1985

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--November 1985

**I. GENERAL**

Damage to the roof from the 8 November collapse of the 80-ft Rohn TV tower was more extensive than first estimated. The onslaught of hurricane "Kate" on 19 November was the first heavy rain since the accident. Numerous leaks developed, leading to some ingenious hydraulic engineering on the part of bureau technician [redacted] and visiting regional engineer [redacted]. Rapid dismantling of one monitoring position, shifting of furniture and reference racks, and manning of a bucket brigade developed in short order. Surprisingly, "Kate" did not dump much more than 2 inches of rain on Key West and came no closer than about 85 miles due south of the bureau. Highest recorded winds reached 74 MPH. Only damage sustained consisted of wet rugs and much unwanted sand and seaweed pushed up onto bureau property. Somewhat normal operations were maintained until 1400 EST when gusts reached gale force. Bureau staff had the option of riding out the storm at home or relocating to a designated storm shelter two blocks from the office. The storm swept through the area quickly and the "all clear" message was issued around 2300. Normal operations resumed at opening of business on the 20th.

Shortly after the storm passed a local contractor installed an interior catch basin and drain to the outside as it was obvious patching the damaged section of the roof would not keep the rain out. It was also necessary to bring in a backhoe to remove heavy deposits of sand and seaweed to allow normal exterior drainage from succeeding rainfall. (A photo report on the hurricane and its aftermath is being forwarded under separate cover.)

As for repairing the roof, Dynalectron's insurance agent has inspected the damage and is finalizing details of the repair with the local contractor who originally erected the new wing on the bureau. The initial cost estimate is \$15K and repairs may

take as long as 90 days to complete, primarily due to an 8-9 week leadtime in ordering new support trusses for roof. The antenna damage should be totally repaired by the end of December. New tower sections are already on site and a more substantial concrete base will be constructed shortly.

Construction on the FBIS base housing project resumed on 12 November and as of this writing the foundation for one set of townhouses is almost finished and excavation has begun on the second set. The "change order" required by the discovery of subterranean residue from the old officers club formerly on the site was negotiated downward from \$8K to \$2.7K, but may require an additional increase as a similar problem could be encountered once excavation of the second site is underway. The change order also included a 7-day extension on project completion date.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

Hurricane "Kate" had devastating effects on the Cuban economy, and couldn't have come at a worse time -- the opening of the annual sugar harvest. Cuban media reported significant losses to the agricultural, communications, industrial and housing sectors in those provinces directly in the storm's path in central and western Cuba. The storm knocked out many of Havana's radio and TV transmitters, necessitating a realignment of broadcasting facilities. Most stations had resumed normal patterns by the end of the month. A special 30-min Havana television report on hurricane damage to some agricultural and light industrial sectors has been forwarded to headquarters.

Castro chose not to make any speeches during November, apparently recuperating from his previous marathon speechmaking relative to the foreign debt issue. Preparations for the once-postponed third Cuban Communist Party Congress are underway, still scheduled for early February. It remains to be seen if the hurricane and other less than favorable economic developments force yet another postponement.

Other Cuban events of note during the month included the conclusion of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit, the 10th anniversary of Angola's independence, and reaction to the Geneva summit.

Significant events in other coverage areas included political and social unrest in the Dominican Republic and Haiti and electoral campaigns in Dominica and Guyana.

## B. Communications

Bureau incoming-outgoing primary circuits suffered extensive outages from 18-23 November totalling almost 100 hours, unfortunately coinciding with hurricane "Kate," but not due to problems associated with the storm. A combination of equipment malfunctions and human error both at NAVCOMMUNIT and at the bureau, fully governed by Murphy's Law, delayed full restoration. LCDR Ed Barger, commanding officer at NAVCOMMUNIT, personally visited bureau on 25 November to apologize for failures by his staff and to recommend strict implementation of formal procedures in assuring circuit continuity. The unit's written SOP governing operation of our circuits is also being revised to update and formalize procedures. Backup communications support was supplied via COMUSFORCARIB/J-6 and Telex.

The software problem encountered last month with the Navy's new Mode I RIXT computer, which automatically removes all double linefeeds and blank characters needed by MIDAS, has still not been resolved. Commander Barger said he would request a status report on his priority software change proposal submitted to NAVTELCOM in Washington.

## C. Cruising

Havana's inauguration of Radio Taino on 3 November, a new service for tourists and visitors to Cuba broadcast in Spanish and English, prompted a restructuring of all Havana radio and television network sourcelines to reflect the specific transmitter or network being monitored rather than the generic "domestic service" nomenclature.

The full fury of hurricane "Kate" seriously disrupted Cuban broadcasting facilities, and by month's end some medium-wave transmitters have still not been reactivated.

## D. Technical

Work during the reporting period was concentrated on recovering from the collapse of the TV tower and resulting roof damage noted previously. The passage of hurricane "Kate" during the afternoon and evening of 19 November revealed numerous leaks in the main operations room under the impact area. Aside from moving furniture and reference shelves, one monitoring booth had to be completely dismantled. Adding insult to injury, a local carpet cleaning service summoned to dry out our wet carpeting pulled away from the bureau with the hose from his van attached to our outdoor water tap, ripping the pipe out of the ground and

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STAT causing an exterior flood until we could locate the main shutoff valve. With Murphy's Law at work again, a temporary catch basin installed to collect and drain off water from the leaking roof collapsed at 0300 on 30 November after a series of heavy showers, causing the operations room to be flooded once again. Damage could have been extensive if it were not for [redacted] working a midnight shift. He quickly summoned assistance to move more furniture and equipment out of the way and prop up the water catcher. The aforementioned carpet cleaner was summoned once again to dry out our rugs and this time managed to back his van into the exterior door, severely damaging the frame. Needless to say, should we have further need of such "service" we will be calling his lone competitor.

Of the antennas rendered inoperative by the tower collapse, all but a rarely used longwire and the TV array for channels 7-13 have been restored. Uninterrupted coverage of Havana television was assured by switching to the old rotary broadband VHF antenna, later rendered inoperative by "Kate," and then mounting a new broadband antenna atop the second TV tower used for channels 2-6 (primary coverage of Havana television is taken from transmitters in Matanzas on channels 9 and 13).

The Dynalelectron crew spent most of their time on post-accident and post-hurricane damage control and cleanup. They also reguyed the second TV tower, refurbished the Kirschner-Wright phased loop array and longwire No. 1. The Hermes loop array shipped from Bangkok Bureau arrived in mid-November and is in temporary storage at NAS Boca Chica until Dynalelectron studies the installation manual and prepares a cost proposal.

Further investigation into the feasibility of setting up a full length single-wire Beverage antenna at Boca Chica airfield had to be postponed until the more urgent business of repairing our existing antennas is well on the way toward resolution.

Accountable property received during the month includes: one U-matic tape truck, Winsted Mdl. U-5010, with six divider shelves (cost \$448.00, procured locally); one Hayes Smartmodem 1200, SN A06800153199 (cost \$699.00, procured locally); one IBM Selectric III typewriter, SN 6218708 (cost \$956.00, from headquarters).

Accountable property transferred to headquarters consists of two Addmaster Mdl. 612-3 paper tape readers, SN 6121193 and 6121194 (unit cost \$799.00).

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

STAT Monitor/editor [ ] was notified of her well-deserved promotion to GS-09, effective 10 November.

STAT Bureau staffers [ ] were recipients of Agency service certificates for 10 and 25 years respectively.

STAT [ ] monitor/editor candidate currently employed by Naval Security Group Activity, took the first part of our monitoring test on 13 November with promising results, but had to postpone completing the exam until he returns from leave in early December.

#### B. Building & Grounds

On 23 November a local contractor initiated work on expansion of bureau's parking lot and driveway. Several local military dependent youths have been working part time on weekends clearing sand and seaweed deposited by "Kate" and scrubbing off the salt residue covering our relatively new vinyl-coated fencing.

### IV. VISITS

1. Chief Richard Bullock, NAS NAVCOMMUNIT Communications Officer, visited bureau on 1 November for orientation and briefing and to discuss current support agreement.

STAT 2. Monitor/editor [ ] was on TDY to headquarters from 4 to 22 November to attend Agency and FBIS orientation programs.

STAT 3. The bureau chief and Operations Officer/Deputy Chief [ ] attended the second annual symposium on Cuba held from 5 to 7 November and hosted by the J-2 intelligence directorate of U.S. Forces Caribbean here on Truman Annex.

STAT 4. [ ] newly-appointed political officer and DCM at U.S. Interests Section, Havana, visited bureau on 6 November while here to attend J-2 symposium.

5. The DDI representative to CINCLANT visited bureau 6 November to discuss potential FBIS support to "Ocean Venture 86" to be held this coming spring. He was referred to LRB for formulation of temporary service.

6. On 7 November a group of 11 DIA, CIA, and State representatives attending COMUSFORCARIB's Cuba symposium visited bureau for general orientation and briefing.

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7. [redacted] NSA advisor to COMUSFORCARIB, and CDR Robert Eustis, new deputy director of COMUSFORCARIB/J-2, visited bureau on 14 November for briefing on our support of local commands.

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8. [redacted] Services Division which is handling our antenna maintenance, visited bureau on 18 November to discuss repair of damage caused by TV tower collapse.

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9. [redacted] FBIS regional engineer, visited bureau 18-22 November on periodic inspection visit.

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[redacted]

Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachment:

Production Report

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

## KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1985

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 133,650

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 25,420

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 533

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	2,575	14,700	21
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK)	MIN	MIN	ISSUES

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

## BAHAMAS

Nassau Domestic Service  
in English400Nassau THE TRIBUNE  
in English1,700

## BARBADOS

Bridgetown CANA  
in English75,260

Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English

120Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE  
in English-0-

## BELIZE

Belize City Domestic Service  
in English560

## CUBA

Havana Domestic Service  
in Spanish18,540Havana Television Service  
in Spanish11,970

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo Radio Mil  
in Spanish-0-

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Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish	<u>450</u>
JAMAICA	
Kingston Domestic Service in English	<u>-0-</u>
Kingston DAILY BLENER in English	<u>-0-</u>
Kingston SUNDAY BLENER in English	<u>-0-</u>
MEXICO	
Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish	<u>19,800</u>
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	
Bonaire Trans World Radio in English	<u>2,080</u>
THE NETHERLANDS	
Hilversum International in English	<u>-0-</u>
OTHER SOURCES:	
BELIZE	
Belize Times in English	<u>430</u>
CUBA	
Havana in English to Europe	<u>420</u>
Havana Radio Taino in English	<u>110</u>
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish	<u>670</u>
SURINAME	
Paramaribo International Service in English	<u>1,140</u>